

remains undiminished. This view of the subject connected with what we conceive to be an impossibility on the part of congress, to preserve the relative weight of the states, in case the election of President and Vice President be given directly to the people, we confess renders us exceedingly doubtful of the propriety of the change recommended by the Legislature of Missouri.

Upon this subject, however, we are undetermined. The objection is suggested for the purpose of eliciting further enquiry into what is conceived to be an important subject, and we hesitate not to declare that we would unite in urging the proposed amendment of electing by the people; were we satisfied, that by its adoption, the influence of the slave holding states would not be diminished. To the last clause of the resolution of the Legislature of Missouri, above referred to, "that the election of President and Vice President, should in no event devolve upon the House of Representatives," we unhesitatingly give our undivided assent. We are induced to do this, by no speculative motive. The history of the past, affords a practical demonstration of the propriety, nay the necessity of its adoption.

In the opinion that congress have no power under the constitution, to aid the Colonization Society, as expressed by the Legislature of Georgia, and reiterated by the Legislature of Missouri, your committee cannot concur. It was impossible, we think, for finite beings, as the framers of our constitution were, to penetrate the dark mists of futurity, and survey at a single glance, all the obstacles, there concealed, to the advancement of the public weal. Fully aware of this, they wisely lodged the power of redressing evil as it occurred, in the hands of those, to whom in after times, the people might entrust the management of their concerns. That the existence among us of that species of population, to the removal of which, the efforts of this society are directed, is an evil and a national evil, none we presume, at this enlightened day, are disposed to doubt; 'for it is a maxim equally approved in philosophy and practice that the existence of distinct and separate casts and classes, forming exception to the general system of policy adopted to the community, is an inherent vice in the composition of society, pregnant with evil consequences, both moral and political, and demanding the utmost exertion of human energy, and foresight to remedy or remove it.'

If then, as is contended, and we think cannot be denied, the existence among us of free negroes, be an evil, one which by its present or prespective influence, may tend to